



Envirofacts Warehouse on the Internet

<http://www.epa.gov/enviro>

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) created the Envirofacts Warehouse to provide the public with direct access to the wealth of information in its databases. This helps EPA fulfill its responsibility to make information available to the public, as required by the 1986 Superfund Reauthorization Act and other federal legislation. The Envirofacts Warehouse allows EPA to disseminate information quickly and easily using the World Wide Web (WWW).

The Envirofacts Warehouse provides access to several databases and tools for users to easily access the information contained in those databases. Currently, the components of the Envirofacts Warehouse include program system, spatial, and demographic data; metadata which describe data contained in the various databases; tools to access and display the data; and other features that educate users on environmental issues.

Envirofacts Database

EPA began the creation of an environmental data warehouse with the design and development of the Envirofacts database which holds data from EPA's myriad program systems. This database contains information about Superfund sites, hazardous waste, safe drinking water, discharges to water, toxic releases, air releases, and grant information.

The Envirofacts database also contains facility information tables, which cross-link facilities existing in multiple databases, and the Locational Reference Tables (LRT), which provides latitude and longitude coordinates for EPA-regulated facilities. Similarly, the Envirofacts Master Chemical Integrator (EMCI) provides an index for EPA-regulated chemicals listed by program system. Other program system data is regularly added to the database.

EPA Spatial Data Library System (ESDLS)

ESDLS stores spatial data for the Envirofacts Warehouse in ARC/INFO format. These standardized spatial data enable the visualization of EPA facilities in relation to geographic features such as roads, rivers, and county boundaries.

Geospatial Data Clearinghouse

The National Geospatial Data Clearinghouse, a component of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), has been added to the Envirofacts Warehouse. This node provides a pathway to find information about geospatial data available from the EPA. Geospatial data is used in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to identify the geographic location and characteristics of natural or man-made features and boundaries on the earth. The metadata in this Clearinghouse provides the spatial data used by Maps On Demand, another feature of the Envirofacts Warehouse.

Envirofacts Tools

EPA provides several applications that allow users to access information contained in the Envirofacts Database including online query forms and mapping tools. Users can access the Envirofacts query capability from the Envirofacts Warehouse Website. This capability allows users to query the Envirofacts Database. Information can be retrieved directly from a selected database (e.g., Toxics Release Inventory), or users can query all program systems in Envirofacts simultaneously. Users can create queries based on the facility name or identification number, various geographic criteria, Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code, and/or data elements unique to each database. Maps On Demand applications use data in the Envirofacts Warehouse to generate maps.

Additional Features

Chemical reference pages link to sites outside the Envirofacts Warehouse Website including EPA resources, other federal agencies, and select university sources that describe chemicals. The Envirofacts Warehouse also includes pages to educate the public about the environment. The Warehouse provides links to EPA and non-EPA sites, which contain general information of environmental interest, such as the law buttons, and Superfund and drinking water fact sheets.